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ATTENTION: PRODUCERS AND EDITORS - SEE LOCAL ANGLE

April 26, 2002 Contact: Kim Hunter Reed

STUDENTS AND PARENTS INVITED TO FRESHMAN FAIRS

BATON ROUGE: Louisiana's ninth and tenth graders have been invited to participate in Freshman Fairs throughout the state to learn more about the new university admission requirements as well as the quality educational offerings available in Louisiana's technical colleges, community colleges and four-year universities.

The events, which are being coordinated by the Louisiana Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers, offer a unique opportunity for students to begin thinking about postsecondary education.

Commissioner of Higher Education Joseph Savoie noted that this is the first time that a statewide effort targeting high school ninth and tenth graders has been planned.

"We are encouraging students and parents from across the state to avail themselves of these fairs because they will provide participants with a great deal of information about the colleges and universities in their area and the requirements for admission," Savoie said. This year's ninth grade students will be the first class affected by the new admission standards for all four-year universities, which will be fully implemented by Fall 2005. The Board of Regents has been working to inform students, parents, and educational officials about the new requirements – successful completion of the Regents core curriculum (currently the TOPS core) and one of the following: an ACT score of 20 or higher, a grade point average of 2.0 or higher, or a certain high school graduation rank.

"In addition to our own awareness campaign, we view these Freshman Fairs as an excellent way for campuses to ensure that more students are aware of the importance of academic preparation during their high school years. We want to encourage every student to reach his or her full potential through participation in a Louisiana college or university," said Dr. Savoie. "That means they must start preparing early to increase their success in the future."

The Louisiana Board of Regents, in an effort to help promote the Freshman Fairs, mailed more than 100,000 postcards to high schools for disbursement to students. Students and parents are encouraged to register early with the campus or campuses they plan to visit.

In addition to the campuses listed on the postcard, other colleges and universities have expressed an interest in hosting such events. The current schedule is posted on the Board of Regents' website at www.regents.state.la.us on the high school student link. Additional events will be added to the website as they are planned.

The Fairs are planned for the next two months. (See full schedule)

ADD TWO STUDENTS AND PARENTS INVITED TO FRESHMAN FAIRS

Date	Host	Time	RSVP	RSVP Deadline
April 20	UNO	9 am - 2 pm	1-800-256-5UNO	April 12
April 27	SLU	10 am- 2pm	1-800-222-SELU	April 25
May 2	La. Tech	брт	1-800-LATECH-1	April 19
May 4	ULL	9 am - 2pm	1-800-752-6553	April 26
May 9	Northwestern State	9 am - 1 pm	1-800-426-3754	May 6
May 11	Centenary College	9 am - 1 pm	1-800-234-4448	April 26
May 11	Nicholls	9 am - 2 pm	1-877-NICHOLLS	April 26
June 1	LSU	1 pm	225/578-6652	May 25